



2008 Farm Bill Conservation Programs

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Natural Resources Conservation Service



Farm Bill Conservation Title II

- 1985 Conservation Compliance
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- 1990 Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- 1996 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- 2002 Conservation Security Program (CSP)
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
Farm & Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)
- 2008 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Funding is targeted to a broad range of resource concerns established through a public input process.
- Part of the emphasis of EQIP is to help farmers and ranchers comply with environmental regulations through voluntary conservation.
- Includes national, state and local priorities:
 - Nationally: Chief of the NRCS solicits recommendations from agriculture and environmental groups.
 - State: NRCS State Conservationist solicits recommendations from the State Technical Advisory Committee.
 - Locally: NRCS District Conservationist solicits recommendations from the Local Working Group.
 - Good opportunity for Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program coordinators to collaborate to identify priority projects

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- From this collaboration, NRCS allocates funds to address resource-based concerns on private agricultural operations:
 - Rangeland health
 - Water conservation
 - Agricultural Water Quality
 - Soil erosion
 - Dairy water quality
 - Soil health
 - Forest health
 - Air quality

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- In addition, NRCS has also established national, state and local initiatives to concentrate funds on regional landscape-level resource concerns:
 - Sage Grouse
 - Organic transition
 - Energy conservation
 - Salmon recovery
 - National air quality
 - National water quality
 - Tribal Initiatives

National Water Quality Initiative

- Originally funded in 2012 as a national EQIP initiative.
 - States were instructed to reserve a minimum of 5% of their general EQIP allocation to target water quality concerns. For CA, this represented \$2.578 million.
 - At least 1, but not more than 3 HUC-12 watersheds were to be selected for funding (CA received a waiver to allow 5 HUC-12's).
 - In California, NRCS solicited recommendations from the State Water Board and EPA.

National Water Quality Initiative

- Selection Criteria

- HUC-12 watersheds with 303d impairments related to nutrients (including low DO, algal growth and ammonia), and sediment (including turbidity)
- Existing partnership monitoring efforts, including baseline data, necessary to evaluate success.
- Potential to delist impaired water body.
- NRCS would also make an assessment of the level of landowner participation.
- ILRP was instrumental in meeting many of the criteria

National Water Quality Initiative

- Core and Supporting Practices
 - Core (partial list) – required to be offered
 - Cover Crops
 - Contour Buffer Strips
 - Residue & Tillage Management
 - Conservation Cover
 - Field Borders
 - Filter Strips
 - Grassed Waterways
 - Sediment Control Basins
 - Nutrient Management
 - Irrigation Water Management

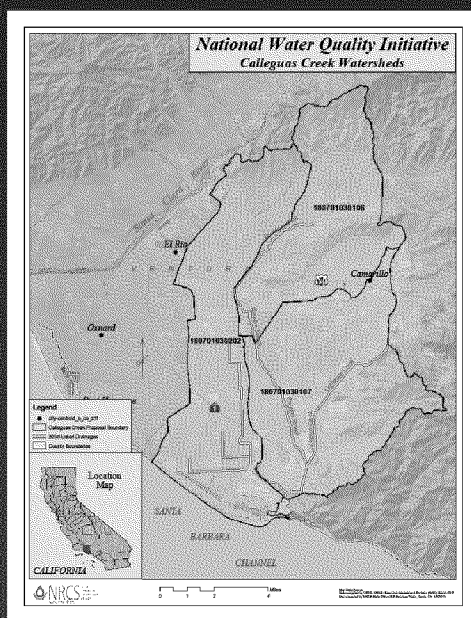
National Water Quality Initiative

- Core and Supporting Practices
 - Supporting - optional
 - Structure for Water Control
 - Livestock Watering Facility
 - Access Road
 - Stream Crossing
 - Spring Development
 - Roof Runoff Structure
 - Waste Treatment Lagoon
 - Micro-irrigation

National Water Quality Initiative

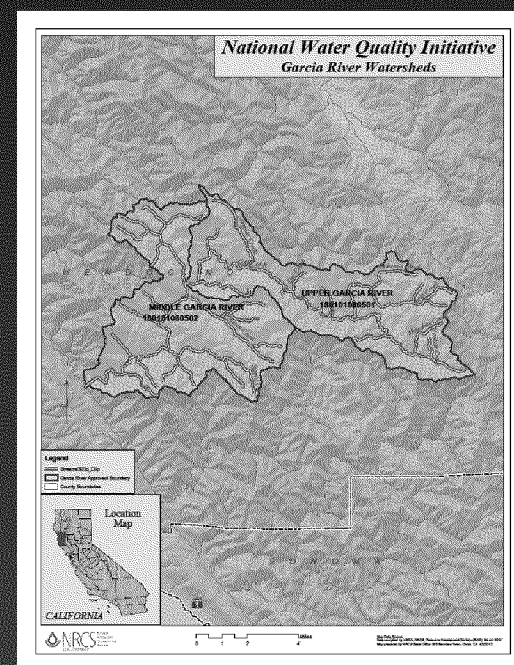
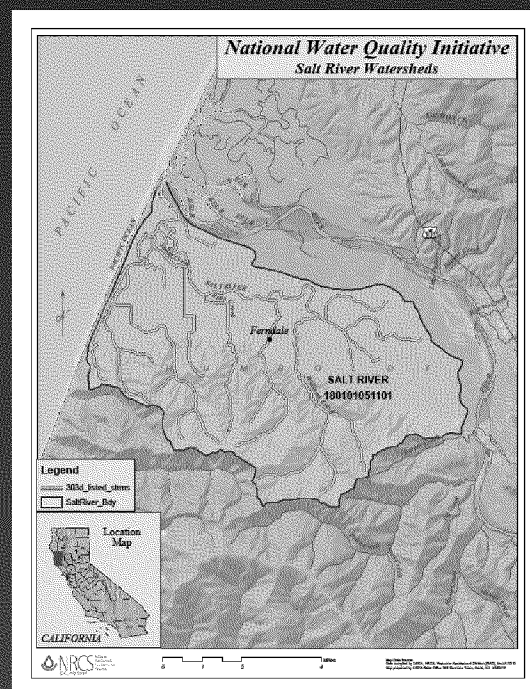
- Ranking and Evaluation Criteria
 - Proximity to 303d listed water bodies.
 - Percentage of treated acres within the watershed boundaries (>75 percent), and use of core practices.
 - Core practices being applied within a non-USDA water quality project area that addresses similar pollutants.
 - Soil hydrologic group (D – high runoff, or A – high infiltration).

2012 HUC-12 Watersheds



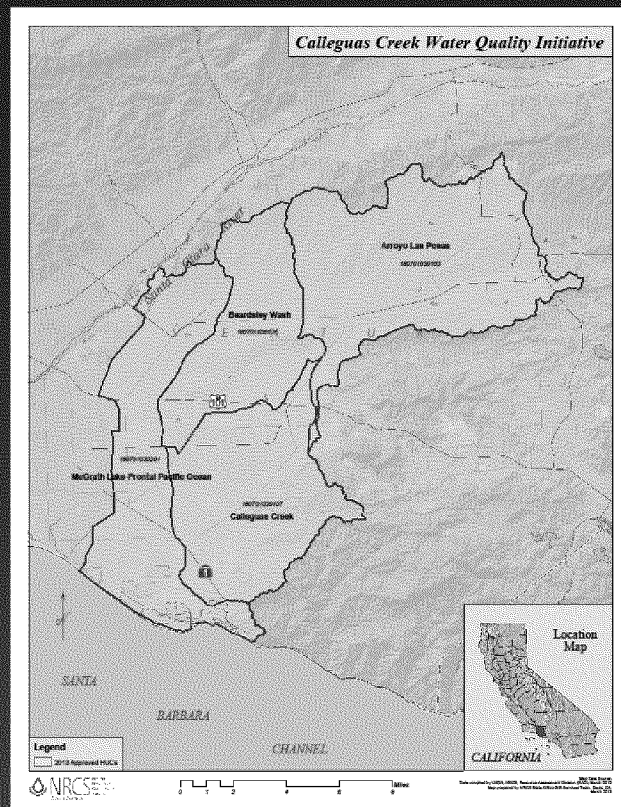
Calleguas Creek
Ventura County

Salt River
Humboldt County

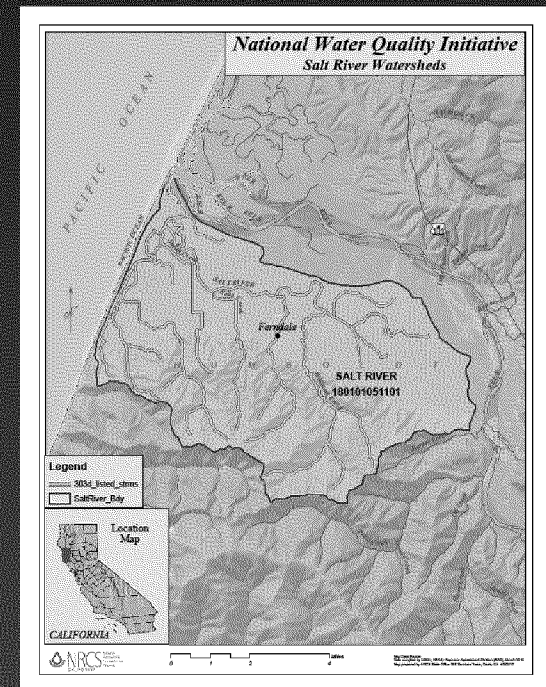


Garcia River
Mendocino
County

2013 HUC-12 Watersheds



Calleguas Creek
Ventura County



Salt River
Humboldt County

Program Delivery: NRCS Implementation

- Program funding is an annual appropriation. All funds need to be obligated to landowner contracts within the federal fiscal year.
- Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, but established cutoff dates are used to make funding decision.
- Applicants are screened and ranked according to program objectives and the level of environmental benefits to be gained.
- Once applicants are selected for funding, they can begin applying practices outlined in a schedule of implementation. Most contracts are written for 2-3 year implementation schedules.

2012 Progress Summary

- Total of \$2,595,744 has been obligated to 26 landowner contracts.
 - Calleguas Creek 386 acres
 - Garcia River 23,900 acres
 - Salt River 4,213 acres
- Practices Funded
 - Calleguas (cropland) – Irrigation reservoirs, underground outlets, nutrient management, irrigation water management, grade stabilization structures.
 - Garcia (forestland) – Access roads, stream crossings, structures for water control.
 - Salt (forestland, dairy, pasture) – Access roads, roof runoff structures, stream crossings, structures for water control.

Heavy Use Protection and
Roof Runoff Structures protect
areas of concentrated livestock
use and direct runoff to off-site
protected areas.



Access Road
Renovation and Culvert



Stream
Crossing



Questions?

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